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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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TO : For the Files

DATE: August 9, 1970

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FROM : ARA-LA/APU - David Cox

SUBJECT: Anonymous Threat Against Uruguayan Embassy Personnel and Uruguayan Chancery

At approximately 4:00 p.m. on August 9, I received a call from Minister Jorge Suarez, Political Counselor of the Uruguayan Chancery. Suarez reported that at about 3:30 p.m. his wife received at home an anonymous phone call (in English) from what sounded like a young male, indicating that unless the Government of Uruguay took measures to release the kidnapped Americans, "his group" would cause harm to Uruguayan Embassy members and the Chancery. Suarez said he had been directed by Ambassador Luisi to bring this threat to our attention. I asked if his call constituted an official request for police protection, and he replied in the negative. I said for us to bring the measure to the attention of the proper authorities, we needed a specific official request for protection from the Embassy. Suarez said he would check with Ambassador Luisi.

At about 4:10 p.m. Ambassador Luisi called Mr. Tragen to officially request police protection. At about 4:15 p.m. I reached by phone an Inspector Sutter of the newly-organized Executive Protective Force (tel. 395-2020), who said that he would check with his superiors and that someone would call me back. At about 4:45 p.m. a Mr. Stucky of the Secret Service (tel. 964-2481) called me, and I informed him of my conversation with Suarez and Ambassador Luisi's request to Mr. Tragen for protection. I said that we fully supported Ambassador Luisi's request, adding than an incident here would only exacerbate the critical situation in Montevideo. Mr. Stucky said he would instruct the Executive Protective Force to contact Suarez and/or Ambassador Luisi at the Chancery to define and establish the protective measures to be taken.

At about 4:50 p.m. I called Suarez to advise him that the Executive Protective Force would soon be in touch with the Chancery.

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6:10 - Call from Suarez
Daughter of Ambassador (Blanca) got call at 6:05 in English "If Mitrione executed, you better evacuate Embassy, because we are going to blow it up tonight."
- Also reported that EPS said it could only offer protection to Chancery and Embassy residence. Policeman now at Residence, no one visible at Chancery. If protection wanted for other staff members, Embassy would have to contact local police jurisdictions.

6:25 - Called Kenneth Knauf (SY) (469-9458) - Related contents memo and above to him and emphasized urgency of avoiding incident here vis-a-vis critical situation in Montevideo. He said he would call Secret Service. I asked him to pass on information re 6:05 call. He said, however, EPS doesn't have authority to provide protection to staff members.

7:45 - Whiting called Knauf and asked him to arrange protection for Ministers Platas and Suarez at their homes. He agreed to call EPS and arrange for coverage through it. Promised to have Jack Lynch (SY) call back to give status of protection.